(c) whether Government subscribe to the view that the dredging causes irreparable damage to the Marine Eco System and traditional fishing sector;

(d) whether Government propose to conduct a study on the environmental impact of sand mining through any Central agencies; and

(e) the extent to which the Coastal Zone Regulation Act permits the mining of sea sand?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The State Government of Kerala has informed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 19th January, 2003 between the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (KSIDC) and Crown Maritime Company (I) Limited. Mavelikkara for conducting a feasibility study for sea sand mining.

(b) and (d) As per the MoU signed, the final decision regarding the implementation of the project is subject to clearances of requisite authorities of the State as well as Central Government and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out by the Naitonal Institute of Oceanography (NIO).

(c) Dredging of sea sand could adversely impact marine flora and fauna, in particular, the sea bed ecosystem.

(e) Minining of said in the Coastai Regulation Zone is a prohibited activity except for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, since there is no suitable alternate construction material available in these islands.

Changes in history text books

*245. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make some changes in the history books; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Government of India

does not prepare text books. However, as a regular activity, National Council of Educational Research and Training revises and publishes text books, on all subjects, based on the curriculum revision carried out from time to time.

FPI proposals in Bihar

†*248. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemnment have any plan to establish food processing industry in Bihar keeping in view the production of potato in Nalanda and litchi in Vaishali; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI NT. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing industries on its own. The Ministry is implementing a Plan Scheme under which financial assistance in the form of grant is provided for setting up food processing industries and their modernisation and technological upgradation. Assistance is provided to private industries, public sector undertakings, non-governmental organisations, cooperatives etc. for technically feasible and financially viable projects. Food processing units using potato and litchi as raw material base also qualify for such assistance.

Ultrasonic Flaw Detection Test for tracks

*249. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the introduction of new trains is adversely effecting the rail safety;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to increased rail traffic there is absolutely no time for track maintenance and Ultrasonic Flaw Detection Test, to look for fractures, thus contributing towards increasing railway accidents; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.